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Food and Home Notes

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION WASHINGTON, D. C.

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK

CONFERENCE SET

NOVEMBER 15 - 18

Long-range program planning needs for the family will be one of the key

presentations at the '77 National Outlook Conference, Family Living Sessions scheduled November 16-18 at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. Population trends and a study on adult competency also will be discussed.

Highlights of the Family Living sessions -- Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday -- will be the outlook on consumer expenditures including clothing, housing, and health care. No session is planned for Wednesday afternoon but the computer terminal for budgeting demonstrations will be displayed.

The tentative schedule for Thursday, November 18th, includes new research information, food consumption trends and other related studies.

The over-all 1977 Outlook Conference will begin November 15th with reports on the general economy and foreign agricultural trade. The conference, sponsored by USDA's Economic Research, Agricultural Research and Extension Services, will also feature presentations and panel discussions by leading authorities in agriculture and business on commodities.

Additional information to follow in October issue of Food and Home Notes.

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THE TROUBLESOME WEED

—— "WILD GARLIC"

What's the cause of that "onion" odor and flavor that sometimes is found in milk? It also appears sometimes in small grains, and meat products -- it's wild garlic. More than just a simple weed, wild garlic is a real problem in the United States.

Back in 1754 in Philadelphia, an infestation of wild garlic in a wheatfield was so heavy that one garlic head was present for every nine heads of wheat. It continues to spread and now infests a large part of the United States. It grows as far south as Georgia, north to Massachusetts, on the Eastern seaboard and west to Kansas. Complaints of garlic-flavored milk have been mentioned as far west as Wyoming.

Wild garlic probably originated in the area of the Mediterranean Sea -- now it's found in many areas of the world. It's a particular problem in Sweden, England, -- and in the United States. Ever since it was first introduced into the United States...in the 17th or early part of the 18th century...it has caused serious weed problems.

What does wild garlic really look like? It has nearly hollow leaves which are attached at the lower half of the plant. It has an underground hardshell bulb and the old bulb coat of wild garlic is thin and membranous.

Wild onion, like wild garlic, begins growth in mid-August or early September and matures in late May or early June. It looks like a cultivated onion but wild garlic contains allyl sulfide that has a disagreeable odor and imports a garlic flavor to agricultural products tainted with it.

(con't on page 4)

COST OF FOOD AT HOME FOR A WEEK (JULY 1976)

| | <u>Thrifty plan</u> | <u>Low-cost plan</u> | <u>Moderate- cost plan</u> | <u>Liberal plan</u> |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| FAMILIES | | | | |
| Young couple..... | \$22.50 | \$29.50 | \$37.10 | \$44.70 |
| Elderly couple..... | 20.10 | 26.10 | 32.40 | 38.80 |
| Family of 4 with preschool children..... | 31.90 | 41.30 | 51.70 | 62.30 |
| Family of 4 with elementary school children..... | 38.50 | 50.00 | 62.80 | 75.70 |
| INDIVIDUALS* | | | | |
| Women | | | | |
| 20-54 years..... | 9.20 | 12.00 | 14.90 | 17.90 |
| 55 years and over..... | 8.30 | 10.70 | 13.30 | 15.80 |
| Men | | | | |
| 20-54 years..... | 11.30 | 14.80 | 18.80 | 22.70 |
| 55 years and over..... | 10.00 | 13.00 | 16.20 | 19.50 |
| Children | | | | |
| 1-2 years..... | 5.20 | 6.60 | 8.20 | 9.80 |
| 3-5 years..... | 6.20 | 7.90 | 9.80 | 11.90 |
| 6-8 years..... | 8.00 | 10.30 | 12.90 | 15.60 |
| 9-11 years..... | 10.00 | 12.90 | 16.20 | 19.50 |
| Girls 12-19 years..... | 9.50 | 12.30 | 15.20 | 18.20 |
| Boys 12-14 years..... | 10.70 | 13.70 | 17.20 | 20.70 |
| 15-19 years..... | 11.80 | 15.20 | 19.10 | 23.00 |

* Cost of food at home for any family can be figured by totaling costs shown for individuals of sex and age of various members of the family as follows:

- o For those eating all meals at home (or carrying some meals from home), use amounts shown.
- o For those eating some meals out, deduct 5 percent from amount in table for each meal not eaten at home. Thus, for a person eating lunch out 5 days a week, subtract 25 percent or one-fourth the cost shown.
- o For guests, include for each meal eaten, 5 percent of amount shown in table for the proper age group.

Next, adjust the total figure if more or fewer than four people generally eat at the family table. Costs shown are for individuals in 4-person families. Adjustment is necessary because larger families tend to buy and use foods more economically than smaller ones. Thus, for a 1-person family, add 20 percent; 2 persons, add 10 percent; 3, add 5 percent; 4, use as is; 5 or 6, subtract 5 percent; 7 or more, subtract 10 percent.

Note: Single copies of papers describing USDA's thrifty food plan (used in setting the coupon allotment in the Food Stamp Program) and the three more costly plans, on which these costs are based, are available from the Consumer and Food Economics Institute, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782.

"WILD GARLIC" (CON'T)

It grows in many types of soil.

It's unsightly around homes and gardens, roadsides and in non-crop areas. It gives lawns a disagreeable odor -- even on the lawnmower and on the clothes of the person mowing the lawn. Usually the growth results from planting infested sod, and sometimes, by land flooding.

Garlic bulbs are not eradicated by uprooting -- they should be burned or destroyed.

Control of wild garlic with chemicals has been attempted for nearly 60 years. In the early 1900's, crankcase oil, carbolic acid, sulfuric acid, fuel oil, orchard heating oil, sodium chloride and sodium arsenite were all tried on wild garlic. But these materials were unsatisfactory because they also killed the associated crops.

Herbicides can be used to keep wild garlic under control. State Extension personnel should be consulted on specific problems.

